

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims are 1 to 12, no other claims being presented.

Claims 1 to 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by WO 01 46101 or XP 002258554 or Shimizu et al. or Takashima et al. cited in the EPO search report. The Examiner states that WO 01 46101 teaches stable bisphenolic composition from the reaction phenol, Bisphenol A stillbottoms and formaldehyde in the presence of an acid. XP 002258554 according to the Examiner, discloses shell molder binders prepared for phenol, bisphenol A distillation residues and formaldehyde in the presence of acid catalysts. Shimizu allegedly discloses a phenolic resin using high molecular weight phenolic compounds left after bisphenol A containing by products formed with aldehyde in the presence of acid catalyst as the phenol component. According to the Examiner, Takashima et al. discloses reacting bisphenol A cleavage residue with formaldehyde in the presence of acid catalyst with phenols. The Examiner states that every limitation is met by the references.

Applicants respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection since all the claims are now directed to the use of applicant's polycondensation products for the preparation of refractory products which after carbonization have a high carbon yield and a higher

oxidation resistance than prior art products (first paragraph of page 4). Applicant is also enclosing a partial copy of the assignees' brochure relating to the use of the composition covered in the claims of the application.

None of the references relate to the use of resins in the refractory field to which applicant's claims are directed WO 01 46101 of Borden discloses a bisphenolic stillbottom in combination with a solvent wherein the bisphenolic composition is a single phase. But the production of the solution is a very complicated procedure and is not necessary in the claimed process which uses the pure bisphenolic residue. Moreover, Borden uses the produced resins for impregnating for paper e.g. for laminating of kitchen countertops or decorative laminates. Borden's composition may be used where lower emissions and/or plasticity are sought (pages 26/27). These characteristics have nothing to do with the claimed use for refractory articles.

Takashima discloses an acid catalyzed reaction product wherein formaldehyde reacts with a Bisphenol-A residue and at least trinuclear Bisphenol F fraction. These resins can be used in making resin-coated sand particles which do not give out a bad smell and do not generate any soot and smoke during forming a mold by the shell molding method and which have good disintegration properties without using any sand baking process (abstract).

Shimizu describes a high-molecular-weight phenolic compound, which is produced after a special pre-treatment of Bisphenol A residue to remove low molecular volatiles. These high-molecular-weight phenolic compounds react with formaldehyde.

The molded resins have an improved flexural strength and heat resistance (Col. 4, line 61-65). JP 002258554 mentions the production of shell mold binders prepared from phenol, bisphenol A residue and formaldehyde in the presence of acid or base catalysts. In summary, the references do not anticipate or render obvious applicant's invention and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims point out applicant's patentable contribution. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures